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THE FLYLEAF

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EDITORIAL

This is an appeal to members of Friends of the Fondren Library for advice. Acting upon the notion that The Flyleaf should print the kinds of relevant materials most interesting to its readers, I should like to ask for suggestions regarding the contents of future numbers.

Our next number will include an article comparing Fondren Library holdings with those of other universities. We are considering for the future a series of articles that will appraise our holdings by individual academic discipline or by subject (e.g., Elizabethan drama) from the standpoint of their adequacy for undergraduate and graduate instruction, use in research, and the like. These articles would be prepared by Rice faculty members or other scholars using the Fondren Library, and their publication would doubtless extend over a period of several years.

Suggestions concerning other possible inclusions and statements of opinion regarding the plan roughly outlined above will be welcomed.

Edward Norbeck

THE KYLE MORROW MEMORIAL COLLECTION

A choice collection of eighteenth-century English literature and other books from the library of the late Kyle Morrow, B.A. Rice, 1933, has come to the Fondren Library. Kyle Morrow was an enthusiastic student of bibliography and art. As one of his early friends and teachers, one who was fortunate enough to witness the early stirring of the enthusiasms that made him such an ardent collector, I have been intensely interested in examining the books he acquired and studied item by item, his bibliographical notes often preserved on loose sheets within the covers. Some of his early acquisitions he had shown me when he first bought them.

We are reminded that the books as they stand on the shelf are involved in an infinitely complicated network of human interests and experiences. There is a life in the books themselves--the "precious life-blood of a master spirit", as Milton said, speaking of the author, and also, by a kind of transfusion, the spirit of those who truly possessed and appropriated these very volumes. The value of the "association book" must never be underestimated, and the more we know of our collections, the more the impersonal trappings of the library will be suffused with significance and warmth.

Some high spots and interesting details in the Morrow Collection may be used to illustrate the different ways in which such an acquisition

as this meets the purposes of a working library. We may begin with the Johnsonian group--the Doctor himself, James Boswell, and Mrs. Piozzi--a subject of constant interest to collectors and students. Here, to begin with, is the first edition of the great Dictionary (1755)--we had been making do with a copy of the third (1765)--and here are both the first and the second editions of Boswell's Life (1791 and 1793), filling what may fairly be called a yawning gap. The copies of Boswell's Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides (1785), and Account of Corsica (1768) are second editions, earlier than the Rice copies, and of the Letters between Erskine and Boswell (1763) we had only a modern reprint. New Johnson firsts for us are Thoughts on the Late Transactions Respecting Falkland's Island (1771), Prayers and Meditations (1785), and A Diary of a Journey into North Wales (1816). Our holdings for Mrs. Piozzi, so important for the Johnson circle, are extended by her British Synonymy (1794) and Journey through France, Italy, and Germany (1789). Of Johnsonian interest are also the Genuine Life and Trial of Dr. William Dodd, the two-volume edition of The Adventurer (1753-54), and a set of Rowlandson's caricature illustrations of Boswell's Tour.

Other varied items, some truly surprising, fall within the wide range of the English seventeenth century and the English and French eighteenth century: Historie of the Princesse Elizabeth (1630); the Ben Jonson folio of 1640; Joseph Moxon, A Tutor to Astronomy and Geography, third edition (1674); the first collected Works of Pope (1717); Voltaire, La Ligue ou Henry le Grand; Mme. Du Bocage, La Colombiade (Paris, 1756); Sterne, Tristram Shandy, vols. I-II fourth

edition, III-IX first edition; The Wilkiad (Edinburgh, 1763); Genuine Account of the Trial of Eugene Aram (York, 1767); The Malefactors' Register, 5 vols., a late eighteenth-century collection of criminal biography; Izaak Walton, The Compleat Angler (1750), not an early edition, but noteworthy as annotated by Moses Browne, author of Piscatory Eclogues.

At the risk of emphasizing the obvious, it may be pointed out that a university library cannot be content with recent editions and reprints of important books; to keep in business we must get back to early editions and issues. Illustrations of this point may be drawn from other items, not first editions, in the Morrow Collection: John Crowne, Sir Courtly Nice, second edition (1693), and some other Restoration quartos (we are in great need in this field); Samuel Colvill, The Whiggs Supplication (1710); Fielding, Enquiry into the Causes of the Late Increase of Robbers, second edition (1751); Hamilton, Memoires de Grammont (1760); Sterne, Sentimental Journey, fourth edition (1769) (Kyle first read this work in my class in 1931-32); Laclos, Les Liaisons Dangereuses (1782); Baron Munchausen (Glasgow, 1804). Particularly striking in this connection are two classic works on cabinet-making: Thomas Chippendale, Gentleman and Cabinet Maker's Director, third edition (1762), of which we had only the 1938 reprint, and Thomas Sheraton, The Cabinet Maker and Upholster's Drawing Book, first edition (1793), of which we had only the 1895 reprint. Duplicates of important books are often needed for bibliographical perspective; such welcome duplicates are Hobbes, Leviathan (1651), and Holinshed's Chronicle (1587).

A brief incursion into other fields gives us Boccaccio, Il Decamerone, a Venice 1538 edition to set beside our Florence 1527 edition; Dickens, Bleak House and Edwin Drood in the original parts; Charlotte Bronte, The Professor, first edition, 1857, Mark Twain, Innocents Abroad (1869), another welcome duplicate, and the immediately following work, the little known Autobiography and First Romance (1871).

Justice has not been done here to the art books, but a nice lot of Cruikshanks must be recorded--The Caricaturists' Scrapbook, Caricature Annual, My Sketch Book, Phrenological Illustrations, Comic Library, Comic Almanac. James Elmes, Metropolitan Improvements (1827) is noteworthy for fine London illustrations.

Even though a full report cannot be made, may this statement help to show that the collector of true taste and enthusiasm, like Kyle Morrow, can impart to others the "shock of recognition" which a library should give, and can perpetuate the desire and delight which he himself felt on his unending quest.

Alan D. McKillop

THE HIDDEN EXPERIENCES OF A BOOK: LIBRARY PROCEDURES

A newly acquired book appears on the library shelf, ready for circulation. Few borrowers or browsers are aware of the many processes involved in the preparation of the book for the shelves, or know that the average cost of its acquisition, preparation, and maintenance adds from three to seven dollars to the purchase price of the book. Although precise, current cost figures are difficult to come by, and the figures vary from library to library, the procedures which require this additional expense are similar in most libraries. The term "technical processes" in library parlance describes those departments of the library that deal with the preparation of the book, from its ordering to its debut as a fully recorded, labelled, and identified book, ready to be circulated.

Let us follow a typical book through the technical processes of the Fondren Library. Since serial publications require special handling and binding which involves additional work and expense, we will assume that the item is a monographic work with a durable binding. A typed order request slip is received from a faculty member by the Acquisitions Department, and is distributed to be searched and verified according to whether the item is in English or a foreign language, in-print or available only second-hand. The Library's main card catalog is searched to determine that the book is not already owned by the library or currently on order. The item must be searched out and verified in standard bibliographies, dealers' catalogs, or second-hand

catalogs to establish the correct author and title, price, series, any variations of the foregoing information, the Library of Congress card order number, and last but not least, availability. With this additional information to help identify a book, the card catalog may again be searched to avoid duplication. Agents and dealers are determined. Multiple order forms are then typed and distributed: to be mailed as purchase orders; to be filed in the main card catalog as temporary catalog cards; to be used in ordering sets of Library of Congress cards for the book; and to be filed as permanent records of the Acquisitions Department. The commitment slip is filed; the academic department initiating the order and the library are now committed to buy the book if it is available. Acquisitions is also responsible for a goodly amount of bookkeeping if the academic departments are not to exceed their book budgets and the university's accounting department is not to be dismayed.

Days, weeks, sometimes months later the book is received. Forms and commitment slips are pulled, recorded, refiled. Invoices are cleared. The book is temporarily shelved to await the arrival of Library of Congress cards and cataloging, or, if these cards have arrived in advance, the book is passed directly to the Cataloging Department.

Here, in the Collation division, the book is examined minutely to determine that the cards accurately describe it. Variations, additions, and corrections are noted. A call number is provided which does not duplicate that of earlier holdings. Items of a bibliographic or reference nature may receive special handling, as do books

in series. The accession of this new book may involve changes and corrections in the main card catalog and the shelflist (the record of the library's holdings by call number) for the sake of uniformity and simplification. Cross references must be made to assist the reader in locating the material for which he is looking under the name he remembers or the subject he needs. Records of these cross references must be kept to facilitate later changes and additions. The work of the individual collator is then checked for accuracy by the supervisor of the section. The book is now ready for marking, the cards for the typist.

We have so far assumed that Library of Congress catalog cards were available for the book. The Library of Congress provides an invaluable service in making available to its subscribers sets of printed cards for books which it has cataloged, but not all books are cataloged by the Library of Congress, particularly older works and books in foreign languages. When the Library of Congress has not produced cards for a specific book within a reasonable length of time, or has indicated to us that no cards are to be printed, the book is designated for original cataloging.

The procedures involved in original cataloging may be broken down into three: descriptive cataloging, the accurate determination of all identifying information; subject cataloging, the analyzing of the subject matter and assignment of appropriate subject headings; and classification, the assignment of a call number to the book according to an established schedule. These combined procedures require broad knowledge, familiarity with other languages, skill and patience. They are often

time-consuming, as when the author or authors of the book or the date of its publication are not immediately evident and must be searched out and verified in bibliographies and other reference sources. Imagine a book, written in Latin in the eighteenth century by an obscure author under a pseudonym, that concerns the life and times of an even more obscure Roman emperor known under variant names. The publisher has not identified himself on the title page and has neglected to affix a publication date. A difficult book perhaps, but a not unusual problem for the cataloger. The work of the cataloger is finally boiled down to the information contained on a typed catalog card, reviewed by a supervisor, and sent on to the typist and the marking table.

Since each book is represented by three to ten or more cards in the Library's various catalogs, the work of a skilled typist is indispensable. Where card sets are available, the necessary information is typed on each card, the typist making additions and corrections where indicated and additional cards when needed. When only a single main card has been forthcoming from the cataloger, the typist must make stencils and multilith card sets. The work of the typist is sent to the proofreader, who examines for errors, and the cards then become the responsibility of the filing supervisor. Any morning of the week the patron of the library may observe a squad of filers placing cards in the main catalog and the shelflist, their work being reviewed by the filing supervisor, who removes temporary catalog cards. Parenthetically, it may be noted that the main card catalog of the Fondren Library, to which about two thousand cards are added each

week, requires constant maintenance, the responsibility of the filing supervisor and of the Collation division.

We have not lost sight of the book itself, which has gone to the marking table, there to be carefully marked with the call number, stamped with the ownership stamp of the Fondren Library, to have date tags pasted in, and, where necessary, to have gift plates attached and pages cut or loose pages "tipped in". This work, too, is reviewed to avoid errors.

On Friday of each week the Circulation Department takes the newly cataloged book from the workroom for a week with other books in the New Book Display, after which it is regularly shelved. The Library patron can find the book recorded in the main card catalog under author or editors, title or variant title, series, and one to many subject headings. The job of "technical processes" is complete.

Sophy Silversteen

GIFTS

The Japan Society, Inc., of New York City has made a gift of \$300.00 for the purchase of books on Japan, an area in which the Library needs greater strength.

The Graduate Wives Club of Rice University presented the Fondren Library \$50.00 for the purchase of books which would be of especial interest to the group. Acquisitions with this gift include the Gourmet Cookbook, 2v.; Mary Stewart's The Southern Gardener; House and Garden's Complete Guide to Interior Decoration; the Good Housekeeping Complete Book of Needlecraft; and Dr. Benjamin Spock's Everywoman's Standard Guide to Home and Child Care.

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It is deeply deplorable that science has become so entangled in competitive world politics--for science is one of the rare human activities that is independent of political boundaries. Science is not an activity of races, or creeds, or nations. Science is mankind's way of responding to the mystery and challenge of nature.

-- Warren Weaver

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